

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-9 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 10-18 will have been newly submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acceptance of the drawings filed in the present application on September 28, 2001, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, in the Official Action.

Applicant further notes with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on December 18, 2001 by the return of the initialed and signed PTO-1449 Form, and for consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Turning to the merits of the action, the Examiner has objected to the specification because of a number of informalities. By the present amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to eliminate the noted informalities. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, as not being in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d). By the present amendment, Applicant has amended the drawings to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) and has attached replacement pages. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over SAFAI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469) in view of MATSUSHITA (U.S. Patent 6,813,036). The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over MATSUSHITA (U.S. Patent 6,813,036) in view of TAFOYA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,607). The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over SAFAI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469) in view of MATSUSHITA (U.S. Patent 6,813,036) and TAFOYA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,607). The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over SAFAI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469) in view of MATSUSHITA (U.S. Patent 6,813,036) and MATSUBARA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,768). The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over SAFAI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469) in view of MATSUSHITA (U.S. Patent 6,813,036). The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over SAFAI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469) in view of MATSUSHITA (U.S. Patent 6,813,036) and TAFOYA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,607).

As noted above, Applicant has canceled claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer and submitted new claims 10-18 for consideration. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections based on pending claims 10-18 and will discuss said

rejection with respect to the pending claims in the present application as will be set forth hereinbelow. The amended claims merely clarify the subject matter recited in the rejected claims, but do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Applicant's claims 10-15 generally relate to a data communication apparatus which comprises a memory configured to store a plurality of domain names of e-mail addresses. The data communication apparatus comprises a panel which inputs at least one character of a user name of an e-mail address and an @ mark, and selects one domain name from the plurality of the domain names associated with the e-mail addresses stored in the memory. The data communication comprises a display which displays data. The data communication apparatus comprises a controller which controls the display to display the at least one character of the user name of the e-mail address input by the panel. The controller determines whether the @ mark is input by the panel when the at least one character of the user name of the e-mail address is displayed, and determines whether the panel has been operated to select one domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory. The controller controls the display to display a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, when the @ mark is determined to be input by the panel and when it is determined that the panel has been operated to select the domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory. The controller generates an e-mail address, based on the at least one character of the user name of the e-mail address input by the panel, the @ mark input by the panel, and the displayed domain name, when the displayed domain

name is selected by the panel, and transmits an e-mail to a destination, based on the generated e-mail address.

Applicant's claims 16-18 generally relate to a data communication apparatus which comprises a first memory configured to store a plurality of e-mail addresses, each of the plurality of the e-mail addresses including a domain name. The data communication apparatus comprises a second memory configured to store a plurality of domain names associated with the e-mail addresses. The data communication apparatus comprises a panel configured to input at least one character of a user name of an e-mail address and an @ mark, and to select one domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the second memory. The data communication apparatus comprises a display configured to display data. The data communication apparatus comprises a controller which controls the display to display the at least one character of the user name of the e-mail address input by the panel, and controls the display to display one e-mail address from the plurality of the e-mail addresses stored in the first memory, the one e-mail address including the at least one character input by the panel, when the at least one character of the user name of the e-mail is displayed. The controller determines whether the @ mark is input by the panel, clears the one e-mail address displayed on the display when the @ mark is input by the panel, and determines whether the panel has been operated to select one domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the second memory. The controller controls the display to display a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the second memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, when the @ mark is determined to be input and when it is determined that the panel has

been operated to select the domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the second memory. The controller generates the e-mail address, based on the at least one character of the user name of the e-mail address input by the panel, the @ mark input by the panel, and the displayed domain name, when the displayed domain name is selected by the panel, and transmits an e-mail to a destination, based on the generated e-mail address.

In direct contrast, SAFAI et al. relate to an auto-completion function which compares a partially entered address with the addresses in an internal table. If a match occurs, the auto-completion function retrieves the complete address from the internal table and displays it in the address entry field (col.9, lines 15-24).

However, SAFAI et al. do not disclose a controller which determines whether the @ mark is input by the panel, since SAFAI et al. do not contain any disclosure about determining whether the @ mark is input by the panel. SAFAI et al. also do not disclose a controller which displays a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of any character after the @ mark when the @ mark is determined to be input, since SAFAI et al. merely compare the partially entered address with the addresses in the internal table.

On the other hand, the present invention displays a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, when the @ mark is determined to be input by the panel and when it is determined that the panel has been operated to select the domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory.

Thus, the pending claims are clearly distinguished over SAFAI et al., as SAFAI et al. do not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in the pending claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 10-18 are not disclosed in or suggested by SAFAI et al. cited by the Examiner.

MATSUSHITA relates to an Internet facsimile apparatus which presents a candidate for information relating to the user in the address of the addressee by relating the predetermined information input or selected by the input-selection circuit to the information about the user stored in the storage unit.

More specifically, MATSUSHITA judges whether the symbol @ is input (Fig.3 ST1 and col.5, lines 5-9) and judges whether a first character is input when it is judged that the symbol @ is input (Fig.3 ST 3 and col.5, lines 13-17). Then, MATSUSHITA judges whether the candidate display key 42 is depressed (Fig.3 ST 5 and col.5, lines 20-31). The candidate display key 42 is utilized for displaying a candidate for the domain name on the display. Further, when it is judged that the candidate display key 42 is depressed, MATSUSHITA retrieves one or more candidates for the domain name including the first character or characters input by the character key 41 and displays the retrieved one or more candidates on the display (Fig.3 ST3 and ST11, and col.5, lines 13-16 and lines 34-43). In other words, MATSUSHITA inputs the first character (after the symbol @) to select a domain name including the first character.

Further, MATSUSHITA requires at least four steps from inputting the symbol @ to displaying the candidates for the domain name: 1) the symbol @ is input; 2) a first character after @ is input by the character key 41; 3) the candidate display key 42 is

depressed; and 4) one or more candidates for the domain name is displayed, the one or more candidates including the first character input by the character key 41.

However, MATSUSHITA does not disclose selecting a domain name without inputting a first character of the domain name (i.e., after the @ mark).

Thus, MATSUSHITA does not disclose a data communication apparatus which controls the display to display a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark when the @ mark is determined to be input, since MATSUSHITA displays the candidates including the first character which is input by the character key 41 before the candidate display key 42 is depressed, when the symbol @ is input.

On the other hand, the present invention does not require input of a first character of a domain name of an e-mail address, but inputs at least one character of a user name of an e-mail.

Further, the present invention displays a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, when the @ mark is determined to be input by the panel and when it is determined that the panel has been operated to select the domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory.

Thus, the pending claims are clearly distinguished over MATSUSHITA, and MATSUSHITA does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in the pending claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 10-18 are not disclosed in or suggested by MATSUSHITA cited by the Examiner.

Furthermore, since neither SAFAI et al. nor MATSUSHITA et al. disclose, teach, or render obvious, in the claimed combinations, at least display of a domain name without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, the proposed combination can also not teach at least this feature, in the claimed combination.

TAFOYA et al. relate to a system and a method for allowing efficient e-mail addressing by minimizing users' keystrokes and mouse clicks. TAFOYA et al. disclose a pop-up menu which includes e-mail addresses starting with a character string, the character string being typed in the data entry area by a user (Fig.6 and col.14, lines 2-11).

However, TAFOYA et al. do not disclose a controller which determines whether the @ mark is input by the panel, since TAFOYA et al. do not contain any disclosure about determining whether the @ mark is input by the panel.

TAFOYA et al. also do not disclose a controller which display a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark when the @ mark is determined to be input. Rather, TAFOYA et al. merely disclose a pop-up menu which includes e-mail addresses starting with a character string that has been typed in the data entry area by a user (Fig.6). In other words, TAFOYA et al. do not display a domain name of an e-mail address to be selected, when the @ mark is input.

On the other hand, the present invention displays a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, when the @ mark is determined to be input by the panel and when it is determined that the panel has been operated to select the domain name



from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory. Further, the present invention generates an e-mail address, based on a user name input by the panel and a domain name selected by the panel.

Thus, the pending claims are clearly distinguished over TAFOYA et al., and TAFOYA et al. do not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in the pending claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 10-18 are not disclosed in or suggested by TAFOYA et al. cited by the Examiner.

Furthermore, since neither SAFAI et al., MATSUSHITA et al., nor TAFOYA et al. disclose, teach, or render obvious, in the claimed combinations, at least display of a domain name without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, the proposed combination can also not teach at least this feature, in the claimed combination.

MATSUBARA et al. relate to an image transmitting apparatus which transmits image data to an external image receiving apparatus through one of a first and a second networks, and retransmits the image data to the external image receiving apparatus through the remaining one of the first and the second networks. MATSUBARA et al. also disclose a one-touch dialing function and a shortened dialing function.

However, MATSUBARA et al. do not disclose a controller which determines whether the @ mark is input by the panel, since MATSUBARA et al. do not contain any disclosure about determining whether the @ mark is input by the panel. MATSUBARA et al. also do not disclose a controller which displays a domain name from the plurality

of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark when the @ mark is determined to be input. Rather, MATSUBARA et al. merely disclose an image transmitting apparatus which registers an electronic address facsimile corresponding to a facsimile number using a function of one-touch dialing or shortened dialing.

On the other hand, the present invention displays a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, when the @ mark is determined to be input by the panel and when it is determined that the panel has been operated to select a domain name from the plurality of the domain names stored in the memory.

Thus, the pending claims are clearly distinguished over MATSUBARA et al., and MATSUBARA et al. do not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in the pending claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 10-18 are not disclosed in or suggested by MATSUBARA et al. cited by the Examiner.

Furthermore, since neither SAFAI et al., MATSUSHITA et al., TAFOYA et al., nor MATSUBARA et al. disclose, teach, or render obvious, in the claimed combinations, at least display of a domain name without inputting, by the panel, of a character after the @ mark, the proposed combination can also not teach at least this feature, in the claimed combination.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has amended specification, the figures, and the claims to overcome all objections and rejections. Applicant has canceled the rejected claims without prejudice and disclaimer and has submitted new claims for consideration by the Examiner.

With respect to the pending claims, Applicant has pointed out the novel features thereof and has contrasted the features of the submitted claims with the disclosures of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

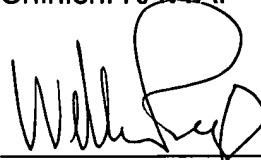
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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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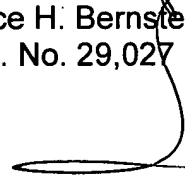
Respectfully submitted,  
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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of the drawing include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7. The attached sheets replace the original sheets. The changes made to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 are as follows:

Fig.1 has been amended to label the printer and the scanner by reference numbers.

Fig.2 has been amended to correct the term "Domain Registration Area" to the term "Domain Name Registration Area".

Fig.3 has been amended to include the entire operation panel 300.

Fig.5 has been amended to correct the term "Desination" to the term "Destination".

Fig.7 has been amended to correct the term "Succeedry" to the term "Succeeding" in ST 506 and to correct the term "atend" to the term "at the end" in ST 703.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets